

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 18, 2003 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-12, 14 and 15 have been withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, claims 18, 19, 21 and 22 are pending in this application and are submitted for consideration.

Applicants again note that claims 1, 2, and 4 should also be considered since they are generic claims, as stated by the Examiner in the Office Action dated March 12, 2001. To date, Applicants have not received an Office Action addressing the subject matter of generic claims 1, 2 and 4. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request an Office Action addressing the subject matter of generic claims 1, 2 and 4.

It appears that the Examiner has withdrawn the allowability of claim 21, as indicated in the prior Office Action dated May 19, 2003. However, other than the following rejection, there is no such explanation in the Office Action.

Claims 18-19 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Semiconductor Energy Lab (JP 02175142 ("JP '142")). In making this rejection, the Office Action took the position that JP '142 discloses all the elements of the claimed invention. However, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 18-19, 21-22 recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art.

Applicants' claim 18 recites a machine part selected from a group including a vibration damper for an automobile, a sealing member for an automobile, and a rotary member for an image forming apparatus, having a portion to be in contact with another object. The portion is made of an organic polymer material selected from a group

including resin and rubber. The portion has a flexible surface entirely or partly coated with a DLC (diamond like carbon) film having a wear resistance and a lubricity as well as a thickness exhibiting flexibility substantially conforming to the flexibility of the surface of the portion.

Applicants' claim 19 recites a machine part selected from a group including a machine part selected from a group including a hose, a sealing member, and a sheet, each employed in a machine, and having a portion in contact with another object. The portion is made of an organic polymer material selected from a group including resin and rubber. The portion has a flexible surface entirely or partly coated with a DLC (diamond like carbon) film having a wear resistance and a lubricity, as well as a gas barrier property, and has a thickness exhibiting flexibility substantially conforming to the flexibility of the surface of the portion.

Applicants claim 21 recites a diaphragm of a diaphragm pump employed in a machine having a portion to be in contact with a liquid. The portion is made of an organic polymer material selected from a group including resin and rubber. The portion has a flexible surface entirely or partly coated with a DLC (diamond like carbon) film having a wear resistance and a water repellency as well as a thickness exhibiting flexibility substantially conforming to the flexibility of the surface of the portion.

Applicants' claim 22 recites a wiper blade employed in a machine, and having a portion to be in contact with water and a window pane of the machine. The portion is made of an organic polymer material selected from a group including resin and rubber. The portion has a flexible surface entirely or partly coated with a DLC (diamond like carbon) film having a wear resistance and a lubricity as well as a water repellency, and

having a thickness exhibiting flexibility substantially conforming to the flexibility of the surface of the portion.

The Office Action took the position that the prior art discloses all the elements of the claimed invention. However, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the structure of the claimed invention, and therefore, fails to provide the advantages of the present invention. For example, the present invention is configured have a portion made of an organic polymer material selected from a group including resin and rubber having a flexible surface. A DLC (diamond like carbon) film is entirely or partly coating the flexible surface of the portion and has a thickness exhibiting flexibility substantially conforming to the flexibility of the surface of the portion.

As a result of this claimed configuration, a good sliding property can be achieved with respect to the contact object because the carbon film has a high resistance against wear.

JP '142 discloses a coating method to enhance wear resistance of a surface of a base body. Specifically, JP '142 discloses a part of an automobile, a motorcycle, a ship, an aircraft or the like having a coating composition film containing an organic substance formed on a surface of the part which is exposed to wind and rain, and also has a transparent carbon film such as DLC film containing a halogen element such as a fluorine DLC film deposited on the coating composition film containing the organic substance. However, unlike in the present invention, the surface of the part of the automobile, motorcycle, ship, aircraft or the like is not flexible, but hard.

Thus, JP '142 fails to disclose or suggest that machine parts, as recited in claims 18 and 19, a diaphragm, as recited in claim 21 or and a wiper blade, as recited in claim

22, with a portion having a flexible surface and are entirely or partly coated with a DLC film having a thickness exhibiting flexibility substantially conforming to the flexibility of the surface of the portion. Applicants have attached a partial translation of JP '142 for the Examiner's convenience.

In sum, JP '142 fails to disclose or suggest a part having a portion made of resin or rubber in contact with another object, the portion being made of an organic polymer material selected from a group including resin and rubber, and the portion having a flexible surface entirely or partly coated with a diamond like carbon film having a wear resistance and a lubricity, as well as a thickness exhibiting flexibility substantially conforming to the flexibility of the surface of the portion, as recited in claim 18. There is also no disclosure of a machine part with a portion made of resin or rubber having a flexible surface entirely or partly coated with diamond like carbon film having a wear resistance, a lubricity, as well as a gas barrier property, as recited in claim 19. Furthermore, JP '142 fails to disclose where the portion has a flexible surface entirely or partly coated with a diamond like carbon film having a wear resistance, lubricity, as well as a water repellency, as recited in claims 21 and 22.

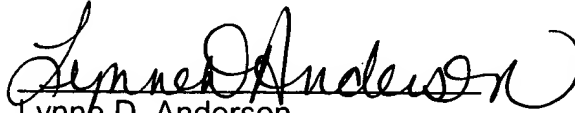
Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Applicants' invention, as set forth in claims 18, 19, 21 and 22, is not anticipated within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, allowance of claims 18, 19, 21 and 22, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

If this application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 107351-00001.**

Respectfully submitted,
ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynne D. Anderson", written over a horizontal line.

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Enclosure: Partial Translation of JP '142